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Supervisor Pete Rios

District 1



County Supervisors Association (CSA)

Pinal County Board of Health

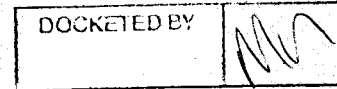
Pinal County CORP Detention Officer
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Arizona Corporation Commission

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JUL 9 2009



The Honorable Gary Pierce
Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Commissioner Pierce,

I have been receiving calls from constituents in my rural district. The concern is the loss of 1000 feet free extension from the utilities companies and the exorbitant cost they are charging to bring service.

This is not a problem in urban Arizona where utilities have already been established but in rural Arizona it is causing a huge hardship and will stop property owners from being able to build a home or business. We are already experiencing a huge drop in our real estate market and this is only going to make matters worse. Why would you give the power companies a rate increase and at the same time allow them to drop free extension? This is a double rate increase. Why would you not set parameters on the cost they can charge?

We do not have a choice in whom we can go to purchase our electricity and are forced to use the monopoly. Once hooked up, the companies then make thousands of dollars over our life time. Historically, the monthly payments have included the cost of expansion that the company was projecting for future growth. I also have been told that free extensions are still allowed on the various Native American Reservations. Is this true?

I am requesting that the Commission revisit this issue and exempt rural Arizona and require that companies go back to the 1000 feet extension. At the very least a restriction should be in place for what they can charge.

Thank you for looking into this matter and I would appreciate a reply.

Sincerely,

Pete Rios

Pete Rios
Vice-chairman
Pinal County Board of Supervisor, Dist I

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